

Reproductive Health Care: Essential for Adolescents

Title X, Planned Parenthood are Important Sources of Care for Adolescents

Consequences of Unintended Teenage Pregnancy

Each year there are over 600,000 teenage pregnancies, 80% of which are unintended.

Teenage childbearing has long term consequences for both mothers and fathers. Teenage parents are less likely to finish high school, making it more difficult for them to obtain employment and gain financial stability as an adult.

Nearly 1 in 5 teenage births is a repeat birth. Two-thirds of second births to teenaged mothers occur within 18 months of the first birth. Having another pregnancy less than 18 months after the previous one is associated with increased risk of preterm birth, low birth weight, and preeclampsia.

Girls born to teenage mothers are more likely themselves to have a baby before their 18th birthday, thus perpetuating the cycle of teenage pregnancy.

Health Impacts of Sexually Transmitted Infections

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) disproportionately affect teenagers, and can have long-lasting consequences.

Teenagers account for one-half of the 20 million cases of newly acquired STIs that occur in the U.S. each year.

It is estimated that 1 in 4 sexually active adolescent females have an STI.

If not properly treated, some STI infections in females may lead to pelvic inflammatory disease, which can then cause infertility.

Furthermore, the same unprotected sexual behavior that leads to the spread of STIs also increases the chance of spreading HIV. Adolescents who contract an STI may also be at higher risk for acquiring HIV infection.

Please support strong funding for family planning programs and resist political interference with Title X grantees.

Value of Reproductive Health Care for Adolescents

Effective reproductive health and family planning services have a significant positive impact on the physical and emotional well-being of adolescents.

The federal Title X family planning program is a crucial funding source for these cost-effective services. Teenage childbearing has a significant financial impact for the U.S. Each year, teenage childbearing costs the U.S. approximately \$11 billion. A publicly funded birth costs taxpayers about \$12,613 per delivery. In contrast, publicly funded contraception costs only about \$257 per year per covered woman.

Title X Providers, Such as Planned Parenthood, are Essential Sources of Care for Adolescents

Planned Parenthood, which operates Title X-supported health centers, offers reproductive health care services that are low-cost and accessible to adolescents.

In 2013, Planned Parenthood provided nearly 900,000 pap tests and breast exams, nearly 4.5 million tests and treatment for STIs, over 3.5 million encounters for contraceptive counseling and services, and over 1 million pregnancy tests and pre-natal services.

Importantly, the contraceptive services provided by Planned Parenthood in one year were able to prevent 516,000 unintended pregnancies.

Planned Parenthood health centers have seen a 91% increase in the use of implants and intrauterine devices (IUDs). These methods of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) give women the most effective means of preventing unintended pregnancy.

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